

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 316

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3798

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: DON JUAN RENOUNCES HIS DYNASTIC CLAIM

REF: MADRID 3724

LISBON FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

1. WITH THE WORDS "MAJESTY, ABOVE ALL ELSE, SPAIN," JUAN CARLOS' FATHER, DON JUAN, OFFICIALLY RENOUNCED HIS CLAIM TO THE SPANISH THRONE IN A TOUCHING SEMI-PRIVATE CEREMONY AT THE ZARZUELA PALACE MAY 14. IN DON JUAN'S WORDS, "...INSTALLED AND CONSOLIDATED THE MONARCHY IN THE PERSON OF MY SON AND HEIR DON JUAN CARLOS, WHO IS THE FIRST STAGES OF HIS REIGN HAS FOUND CLEARLY MANIFESTED POPULAR SUPPORT AND WHO IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HAS OPENED NEW ROADS FOR THE FATHERLAND, I BELIVE THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED TO RURN OVER TO HIM THE HISTORICAL LEGACY WHICH I INHERITED, AND CONSEQUENTLY I OFFER MY COUNTRY THE RENUNCIATION OF THE HISTORICAL RIGHTS OF THE SPANISH MONARCHY, ITS TITLES AND PRIVILEGES AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SPANISH ROYAL HOUSE WHICH I RECEIVED FROM MY FATHER ALFONSO XIII..."

2. JUAN CARLOS RESPONDED: "...BY OFFERING SPAIN THE
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RENUNCIATION OF THE HISTORICAL RIGHTS YOU RECEIVED FROM ALFONSO XIII, YOU REALIZE AN ACT OF GREAT SERVICE... ON ACCEPTING THEM, I EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR ABNEGATION AND DISINTEREST AND FELL THE INTIMATE SATISFACTION OF BELONGING TO YOUR DYNASTY... AS KING, I WANT TO LIVE UP TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF THIS HISTORICAL MOMENT. I WANT TO ISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND THAT WHICH IS BEST FOR SPAIN.

I WILL RESPECT THE POPULAR WILL, DEFENDING THE TRADITIONAL VALUES AND THINKING ABOVE ALL THAT LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND ORDER MUST INSPIRE MY REIGN. IN THIS WAY, THE MONARCHY WILL BE A DECISIVE ELEMENT (PROMOTING) THE NECESSARY STABILITY OF THE NATION."

3. COMMENT: DON JUAN'S RENUNCIATION DOES MORE THAN TIDY UP A DYNASTIC LOOSE END. AS LEGITIMATE HEIR TO THE SPANISH THRONE, DON JUAN'S DECISION MEANS THAT JUAN CARLOS IS NOT LONGER KING BY THE GRACE OF FRANCO; HE NOW ENJOYS FULL MONARCHICAL LEGITIMACY. MOREOVER, THROUGH ALL HIS YEARS OF OPPOSITION TO FRANCO, DON JUAN ASSUMED THE ROLE OF SYMBOLIC LEADER OF A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME, AND HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH THAT HE WOULD STEP ASIDE WHEN IT WAS BEST FOR SPAIN THAT HE DO SO, I.E., WHEN HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION AND WITH HIS SON'S PERFORMANCE AND INTENTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, HIS RENUNCIATION CONFERS ON JUAN CARLOS, IN ADDITION TO DYNASTIC LEGITIMACY, AN ADDED MEASURE OF DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY, AND IT HAS BEEN SO INTERPRETED BY ALL OF THE MADRID PRESS, WHICH HAS GREETED THE DECISION WITH FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY, WHICH MUST BE RATIFIED IN SOME FASHION IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION, THAT COUNTS FOR THE MODERN SPANISH MONARCHY.

4. DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE KING, THE VICE PRESIDENT MAY WANT TO MENTION HIS AWARENESS OF DON JUAN'S ACT, SINCE IT IS OBVIOUSLY A SOURCE OF PERSONAL GRATIFICATION TO
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THE KING AS WELL AS A DEVELOPMENT OF "OFFICIAL" IMPORTANCE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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